(a) whether the cement manufacturers have made a representation to Government for taking a policy decision to increase use of cement concrete for the ongoing National Highway Development Projects, and Golden Quardrilateral project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ.GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cement Manufacturers Association has made a representation advocating the use of cement concrete pavement in National Highway Development Projects.

(c) A Committee has been constituted by the Ministry with representation from Cement Manufacturers Association also, for a realistic assessment in respect of use of cement concrete pavement. National Highways Authority of India has identified an aggregate length of 1680 kilometers under NHDP for the use of cement concrete pavement.

Change in vehicle number plates

1339. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
PROF.(SHRIMATI)BHARATI RAY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent change in vehicle number plate in the capital was meant to be a long-term measure;

(b) if so, whether this system is still toying with the idea of introducing holographic vehicle identification plate which entails an additional cost of Rs.500/- for each vehicle owner;

(c) the details of the countries wherein the holographic vehicle number plates have been made mandatory; and

(d) whether introduction of holographic system of identification would help the road-law enforcement authorities in tackling road-related crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI):

(a) Yes, Sir. The changeover is meant for the entire country and is meant to be a long-term measure for security.

(b) The use of hologram is one of the security features in the New Registration number plate. The cost of hologram is included in the cost of registration plate as a whole, the precise value of which shall be a commercial decision by the manufacturer/supplier of the registration plates.

(c) As per information available, such countries are Armenia, Columbia, Congo, Curacao, Ethopia, Georgia, Iraq, Japan, Mali, Malta, Oman, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Uruguay and Zambia, etc.

Declaration of N.Hs in Orissa

1340. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ROADTRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to declare some State roads in Orissa as National Highways were pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received by Government from Orissa during the last three years, and

(c) the steps taken to consider those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the period from 1-4-1998 to date, the Ministry had received 22 proposals relating to declaration of new National Highways in Orissa, out of which 5 routes with approximate length of 1595 kms. were declared as new National Highways. The left over proposals could be considered alongwith similar proposals received from the various States after the finalisation of the Tenth Five Year Plan depending on the traffic needs, their *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

CRF Projects

1341. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ROADTRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned for the Central Roads Fund Projects in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of the projects sanctioned; and